

subject matter of the book, and the text could be in either paper or electronic format. The book had to be commercially available (not necessarily published in Australia or New Zealand, though indexed there), and have an imprint date of 2012 or later.

Six entries were received, all of them indexes for histories or biographies. Five were thoroughly competent, but the sixth had serious deficiencies and would have struggled to achieve ANZSI's Accreditation standard.

None of the indexes was without fault. The most common problem was a lack of double postings. Significant content was included in subheadings, but not repeated as main headings. This omission seriously affected the usability of the indexes. Basic filing errors were all too common: for example, misfiling personal names and phrases beginning with the same word. In another instance, a mixture of chronological order and alphabetical order was used for subheadings, which was confusing for the reader. Two separate issues related to under-indexing. In some instances key names or topics were not indexed, or when they were included only main headings were used, resulting in long strings of undifferentiated page numbers. Other indexes suffered from over-indexing: including too much unnecessary fine detail. We were looking for a balance between these two extremes.

One surprise to the panel was the use in two indexes of an unusual cross-reference style where parentheses were used with *see also* references, creating a run-on style entry within a set-out (indented) format, for example Bourke Street (*see also* Collins Street) 48, 97, 110. While this is not incorrect, it was unexpected in Australian indexes. It is more common in the United States.

Some indexes were affected by issues outside of the indexer's control. In one instance, an eight-page colour

photo section had been added after the indexing, so the photos were not indexed, which affected the overall usability of the index. In another instance, the deep indents for subheadings seriously compromised the amount of usable space left for the column. This greatly affected the visual appeal of the index.

Some might say that since these issues were not the fault of the indexers, they should not be considered as part of the evaluation. From the reader's perspective, however, it is the overall package of the index that counts. Readers have no interest in who contributed to the finished index, whether indexer, editor or typesetter; they only want to find pertinent information as quickly as possible. Nothing else matters.

Based on these observations, it is not surprising that the panel was unable to find an index of the highest calibre. As a result, the panel could not recommend any of the entries for the inaugural John Simkin Medal 2015, or rate them as Highly Commended. Two of the indexes, however, were graded as Commended for the sheer amount of work involved and the complexity of the material indexed. One commendation goes to Jill Gallop for her index to Geoffrey Palmer's *Reform: a memoir* (Wellington: Victoria University Press, 2013) – a massive 750-page biography, with 50-page index. The second goes to Karen Gillen for her index to Bryan Keon-Cohen's *A mabo memoir: islan kustom to native title* (Bayswater, Vic.: Zemvic Press, 2013) – a 660-page tome, with a 21-page index. Our congratulations go to both Jill and Karen for their admirable work. We hope this dip into the world of indexing awards will inspire them to submit further titles for the John Simkin Medal when it is offered again in 2017.

Max McMaster (convenor), Michael Ramsden, Mary Russell
(Medal Panel, ANZSI Awards Committee)

Indexes reviewed

Edited by Christine Shuttleworth

These extracts from reviews do not pretend to represent a complete survey of all reviews in journals and newspapers. We offer only a selection from quotations that readers have sent in. Our reproduction of comments is not a stamp of approval from The Indexer upon the reviewer's assessment of an index. Extracts are arranged alphabetically under the names of publishers, within the sections: Indexes praised; Two cheers!; Indexes censured; Indexes omitted; Obiter dicta.

Indexes praised

Book Guild: *Barbara Pym: a passionate force*, by Ann Allestree (2015, 158 pp, £17.99). Rev. by D. J. Taylor, *The Spectator*, 23 May 2015.

What might be called the ticket-collector-on-the-oblivion-express view of literary life would have no trouble at all in patronising Pym's diffident journey from bourgeois Oswestry to boarding school,

Oxford, war-time service in the Wrens and a 28-year-stint at the International Africa Institute, where she combined the assistant editorship of Africa with a determination never to visit the place in person. Yet the serial misfortunes outlined in Douglas Matthew's [sic] customarily excellent index ('hypochondria, 53 ... depression, 85–6, parathyroid gland removed, 107' etc) shouldn't blind us to the intensity she brought to its fictional projection. [*The reference should be to Douglas Matthews, a distinguished member of SI.*]

Chatto: *The Sixties: diaries Vol. II, 1960–69*, by Christopher Isherwood (2010, 800 pp, £30). Rev. by Katherine Bucknell, *Letters, London Review of Books*, 23 April 2015.

In his piece about Don Bachardy, Kevin Kopelson writes that he's not been 'able to discover' who Dana Woodbury is (*LRB*, 9 April). Kopelson will find him mentioned several times in Christopher Isherwood's *The Sixties: Diaries Vol. II, 1960–69*. There is a good

index prepared by [SI member] Christopher Phipps and, in the glossary, the following information:

Woodbury, Dana. A neighbour of Dorothy Parker and Alan Campbell; he lived across the street from them on Norma Place in West Hollywood, and they introduced him to Isherwood. Bachardy painted his portrait several times.

Doubleday: *Shop girl*, by Mary Portas (2014, 288 pp, £16.99). Rev. by Nicky Haslam, *The Spectator*, 14 March 2015.

Intensely observant, every commercial product ratcheted in her mind, and part of the book's charm (and much of its index – even one bite of a Granny Smith gets a mention) is its litany of fondly remembered brand names. [Index by SI member Christine Shuttleworth.]

Dugdale Society: *Coventry Priory Register*, by Peter Coss and Joan C. Lancaster Lewis (2013, 723 pp, £35). Rev. by Miriam Müller, *Economic History Review*, 68(2), 2015.

Detailed indexes allow searches for persons, places, and subjects...

Faber & Faber: *Words without music*, by Philip Glass (2015, 432 pp, £18.10). Rev. by smartyfun, www.amazon.co.uk/s/ref=nb_sb_ss_i_1_12?url=search-alias%3Dstripbooks&field-keywords=philip+glass+words+without+music&prefix=Philip+Glass%2Cstripbooks%2C196, 11 April 2015.

There is an index which helps you to locate points of interest, but I was surprised that there wasn't a catalogue of works which would have been helpful and provided context to the extent and depth of his output.

Facet: *Information governance and assurance – reducing risk, promoting policy*, by Alan MacLennan (2014, 196 pp, £49.99). Rev. by Margaret I. Katny, *CILIP Update*, April 2015.

The accompanying bibliographies are wide ranging and relevant and the index is excellent.

Metropolitan Museum of Art and Yale University Press: *Tapestry in the Renaissance: art and magnificence*, by Thomas B. Campbell (2002m 594 pp, £55). Rev. by Nick Humphrey, *Newsletter of the Furniture History Society*, 148, November 2002.

Numerous illustrations and a detailed index support the text, making *Tapestry in the Renaissance* a most valuable reference tool. It should prove a landmark to anyone interested in the history of fine or decorative art during the period 1460–1560.

Oblong Creative: *The Arts and Crafts movement in the north west of England: a handbook*, by Barrie and Wendy Armstrong (2005, 285 pp, £17.50). Rev. by Katherine Wright, *Furniture History Society Newsletter*, 161, February 2006.

With over 300 illustrations of architecture, metalwork, textiles etc., the book is suitable for casual browsing. The selection of stained glass proves particularly enticing. What completes and elevates the book, however, is the extensive 'Who's Who' at the end, a biographical index to over 350 individuals or firms who have been identified in the gazetteer. Although this section may lack information on certain names, it clearly references the source material that was used in compiling the text and will prove to be an excellent point of reference for scholars and local historians alike.

Oxford University Press: *The Bordeaux–Dublin letters, 1757: corre-*

spondence of an Irish community abroad, ed. by L. M. Cullen, John Shovlin and Thomas M. Truxes (2013, xxvi + 330 pp, £70). Rev. by Patrick Walsh, *Economic History Review*, 68(2), 2015.

Crucially the indexes arranged by both name and subject are comprehensive, something that should ensure that this book will be widely consulted by historians of Franco–Irish trade, migration, and society.

Palgrave Macmillan: *Women, rank and marriage in the British aristocracy, 1485–2000. An open elite?* by Kimberly Schutte (2014, xi + 290 pp, £60). Rev. by Jackie Collier, *Economic History Review*, 68(2), 2015.

The book also includes a broad biographical index, which is extremely useful for both scholars and students studying the aristocracy.

Princeton: *Why can the dead do such great things? Saints and worshippers from the martyrs to the reformation*, by Robert Bartlett (2013, 787 pp, £27.95). Rev. by Barbara Newman, *London Review of Books*, 7 May 2015.

For a book so deeply grounded in original research (its bibliography of primary sources alone runs to 47 pages and includes seventy manuscripts), the volume is remarkably accessible. Just for fun, I scoured the index for the most obscure saints I could think of: St Lewinna, a forgotten Anglo-Saxon virgin, and the Breton St Winwaloe, son of Gwen the Three-Breasted. Both were present and accounted for.

Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study: *Carl Peter Thunberg, botanist and physician*, by Marie-Christine Skuncke (2014, 376 pp, \$39). Rev. by David Mabblerley, *Times Literary Supplement*, 8 May 2015.

[A] beautifully produced book with excellent illustrations, bibliography and heavy footnotes, with a good index...

Thomas Publications: *Gold leaf, paint and glass*, by Frances Federer (2012). Rev. by Katharine Coleman, *Glass Circle News*, 130, 35(3), November 2012.

The book also has an excellent index. [Index by SI member Hazel Bell.]

Two cheers!

Antique Collectors Club: *The Paris Salons 1895–1914, vol. III, Furniture*, by Alistair Duncan (1996, 575 pp, £49.50). Rev. by Christopher Wilk, *Furniture History Society Newsletter*, 124, November 1996.

The author has included a separate index of designers and cabinet-makers with minimal information; its purpose is not clear in a volume arranged alphabetically.

Bloomfield Press: *Gillow furniture designs 1760–1800*, ed. by Lindsay Boynton (1995, 239 pp, £37.50). Rev. by Susan Stuart, *Furniture History Society Newsletter*, 121, February 1996.

Gillow Furniture Designs ... makes accessible for the first time over three hundred contemporary illustrations of the firm's output, as well as edited versions of indices [sic] known previously only to a few scholars. ... The main body of the book naturally comprises drawings taken largely from the Estimate Sketch Books 1784–1800,

with others extracted from earlier books ... The remainder of part one consists of three indices viz, persons and places, workmen, and furniture which necessarily includes furniture terms. Part two contains three similar indices but covers the Estimate Sketch Books 1784–1800 as a whole. These useful indices were compiled by the late G. F. Osborn and edited by Lindsay Boynton. Dr Boynton's furniture index should be extremely useful, since it enables one to look up a term and see it illustrated in a contemporary drawing. However, 'feather banding', which was indexed under 'banding', could not be found in the references in the notes to the figures. 'Birching', an intriguing term used by Gillows, is not indexed at all, although it is recorded in many of the notes to the monochrome illustrations (figs 167, 168 and 123) and appears to refer to a fine type of mahogany veneer (fig. 174).

Boydell Press: *Durham Priory manorial accounts 1277-110*, ed. by Richard Britnell (2014, lxxiv + 379 pp, £50). Rev. by A. T. Brown, *Economic History Review*, (68)2, 2015.

The index, compiled by Margaret Harvey, Anne Orde, and Simon Squires after Britnell's illness and death, is detailed and extensive, though it could have perhaps benefited from a separate subject index.

Indexes censured

MIT Press: *Charles and Ray Eames: designers of the twentieth century*, by Pat Kirkham (1995, 486 pp, £36.50). Rev. by Annette Carruthers, *Furniture History Society Newsletter*, 121, May 1996.

Curiously, the notes are stretched to fill 72 pages while the index is skimmed ...

Scribe: *J. M. Coetzee: a life in writing*, by J. C. Kannemeyer (2013, 736 pp, \$59.95). Rev. by Peter E. Alexander, *The Saturday Age*, 1 December 2012.

This important biography, though marred by occasional clunky writing and an inadequate index, sheds more light on a great writer than anything that has appeared previously.

Indexes omitted

William Collins: *The dream shall never die: 100 days that changed Scotland forever*, by Alex Salmond (2015, 242 pp, £6.49). Rev. by Tom Gallagher, www.thecommentator.com/article/5722/uncrowned_king_alex_salmond_napoleon_remembers

His book is fluent and jaunty. The last 100 days of campaigning sound like a Ruritarian [*sic*] royal progress from public rallies to the television studios to lunches and talks with academics, media folk and business people. There is no index and perhaps there was no need for one.

Granta Books: *The impossible exile: Stefan Zweig at the end of the world*, by George Prochnik (2014, 416 pp, £16). Comment by Lindsay C. Martin, 'Letters to the Editor', 3 April 2015, on rev. by Leo Lensing, *Times Literary Supplement*, 13 March 2015.

As the references are unnumbered but in continuous prose at the end of the book, I found it extremely difficult to relate them to the text. In addition, the volume has no contents page and, more importantly, no index. According to the publisher, Granta Books, this is because the text was bought from the American publisher, Other Press, New York, and had no contents page or index. I'm afraid this book is a sad reflection on publishing standards on both

sides of the Atlantic.

Plexus: *The curious case of H. P. Lovecraft*, by Paul Roland (2014, 192 pp, £14.99). Rev. by Adam Roberts, *Times Literary Supplement*, 8 May 2015.

The flavour of the enthusiastic amateur runs right through Paul Roland's Benjamin Button-ishly titled *The Curious Case of H. P. Lovecraft*, from the book's ungainly homemade-looking cover art to its indexless final pages.

Prestel: *Die Möbel der Residenz München: [vol.] I Die französischen Möbel des 18. Jahrhunderts*, by Brigitte Langer (1995, 327 pp, DM 168). Rev. by Daniëlle Grosheide, *Furniture History Society Newsletter* 122, May 1996.

Surprising for a book of this nature [*a catalogue of German furniture collections*] is the absence of an index, unless, of course, a general one will be included in the third volume.

ProGEO: *Geoheritage in Europe and its conservation*, ed. by W. A. P. Wimbleton and S. Meyer-Smith (2012, 405 pp, €40). Rev. by Cynthia Veronica Burek, *Proceedings of the Geological Association*, 125(3), July 2014.

To summarise, although this affordable book is a valiant attempt to bring together a wealth of information in English, it lacks a couple of useful key features. Perhaps most irritating is the lack of an index, especially as there are several blank pages at the end of the book. This makes it very difficult to search for examples of specific localities. Also the lack of a general reference list at the end distracts from the fact that each country does have a set of references specific to its own country with the one exception of F. Y. R. [Former Yugoslav Republic] of Macedonia.

Springer: *Explaining monetary and financial innovation: a historical analysis*, ed. by Peter Bernholz and Roland Vaubel (2014, vi + 366 pp, €121). Rev. by Forrest Capie, *Economic History Review*, 68(2), 2015.

The only negative for me was the absence of an index.

M. Wehle (Bonn): *Georg Ludwig Friedrich Laves (1788-1864): Das Möbelwerk*, by Thomas Dann (1996, 141 pp, DM 72). Rev. by Henriette Stuchtey, *Furniture History Society Newsletter*, 124, November 1996.

This well-researched study makes extensive use of archival sources but deserves better editing. There are needless repetitions and sometimes awkward wording. ... It is almost impossible to follow the author's remarks on the ornamental decorations or even to compare Laves' furniture effectively with works of his contemporaries. The captions and credits are sometimes misleading, incomplete (no. 61) or mixed up (nos. 7 and 8). It would also have been useful to include an index.

Yale University Press: *Passions*, by Giacomo Leopardi, translated by Tim Parks (2014, 232 pp, £14.88). Rev. by Robert Carver, *The Tablet*, 16 March 2015.

There is no index at the back, no table of contents at the front, and the subjects covered are not arranged in alphabetical, or any other, order. A hotchpotch is a hotchpotch, but not being able to locate or then re-find anything slowly drove me insane with fury. Cavils apart, this is a rich and stimulating selection, both challenging and thought-provoking.

York Civic Trust: *Come drink the bowl dry: alcoholic liquors and their place in 18th century society*, by Peter H. Brown and Marla H. Schwartz (1996, 104 pp, £13.95). Rev. by Catherine S. Hay, *Furniture History Society Newsletter*, 126, May 1997.

Though the publications [in the series of essays on displays at Fairfax House Museum, York] are intended to stand in for catalogues to the exhibitions, they contain no listing or description of the items which were displayed; it is left to the reader to deduce which of the photographs might illustrate the 'set-piece recreations' at Fairfax House. This is frustrating, as is the lack of a contents page, index, bibliography or any cross-references. The books are therefore unnecessarily difficult to use as works of reference, which they are undoubtedly intended to be.

Obiter dicta

Antique Collectors Club: *Bibliography of glass: from the earliest times to the present*, by Willy Van den Bossche (2012, 347 pp, £65). Rev. by Andy McConnell, *Glass Circle News*, 131, 36(1), March 2013.

The city of Liège, near where the author lives, merits 18 index listings. This compares to nine for Finland.

Cape: *Death and Mr Pickwick*, by Stephen Jarvis (2015, 802 pp, £20). Rev. by Lindsay Duguid, *Times Literary Supplement*, 22 May 2015.

As the objects and incidents increase and characters recur, an amiable self-consciousness about the novel's controlling intentions reassures the reader. The narrative may be complex but the reading experience is leisurely and pleasant. Mr Inbelicate has a Footnotes Room, full of things no longer in use that need explaining: a bottle of gamboge liquid for boot flaps, Brummagen [*sic*] buttons, hard bake, a bottle of Camphor Julep. And he happily asserts that 'Discovering tenuous links is one of the great rewards of long and rambling study', as well as remarking on 'cantankerous old professors . . . always ready to assume that others have committed howling errors'. . . . It seems there is always room for one more hidden clue. If only *Death and Mr Pickwick* had an index.

A touch of Frost

For a half-century, since his death, Robert Frost's reputation has suffered greatly from the distorted portrait Lawrance Thompson presented in his multi-volume biography of the late 1960s In their preface, the editors unreservedly charge Thompson with malice. They quote his introduction to that 1964 'selected' edition

of Frost's letters in which Thompson alleges that the letters reveal Frost's 'gloom, jealousies, obsessive resentment, sulking, displays of temper, nervous rages and vindictive retaliations' and that 'he frequently indulged his passion for hurting even those he loved.' Thompson had invited readers to 'roll their own' biography of Frost from the letters and, as an aid, provided the following entries in the index under Frost, Robert Lee: 'Badness,' 'Cowardice,' 'Enemies,' 'Fears,' 'Gossip,' 'Insanity,' 'Masks and Masking,' 'Profanity,' 'Resentments,' and 'Self-Indulgence.' As the editors note, 'Absent are entries for goodness, bravery, friends, hopes, discretion, sanity, honesty, genuineness, gratitude, generosity, and restraint. Frost was to be "rolled," it was clear, in more ways than one.'

[*The book under discussion is* *The Letters of Robert Frost: Volume 1, 1886–1920*, edited by Donald Sheehy, Mark Richardson & Robert Faggen (Harvard University Press, 1964).]

Andrew Hamilton, "I Am Not Undesigning",
The New Criterion, March 2015

A first-rate index

I hurried to my bookshelves and located *Fifty Years With John Company* in the same spot where it had been sitting unopened for 40 years. One of the book's many virtues, I immediately discovered, is that it has a first-rate index. In no time at all, I had located every quotation, every fact cited in *The Sunday Times* report. Aunt Ursie was the sole source for the whole story.

[The reference is to *Fifty years with John Company: from the letters of General Sir John Low of Clatto, Fife, 1822–1858*, by Ursula Low (John Murray, 1936).]

Ferdinand Mount, *Tears of the Rajas: Mutiny, money and marriage in India 1805–1905* (Simon & Schuster, 2015)

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Jane Angus, Ballater
Geraldine Beare, Ilminster
Hazel Bell, Hatfield
Rohan Bolton, Chalfont St Giles
Moyra Forrest, Edinburgh
Auriol Griffith-Jones, Sturminster Newton
Boyd Holmes, Toronto
Don Jordan, Mt Waverley, Victoria, Australia
Maureen MacGlashan, Largs
Christopher Phipps, London
John Sampson, Stockport

Contributions of review extracts welcomed by the editor of this section, Christine Shuttleworth (please see inside front cover for further details).

Reviews

The accidental indexer. Nan Badgett. Medford, N.J.: Information Today, 2015. 222 pp. ISBN 978-1-57387-514-1 (pbk) US\$39.50.

The title of Nan Badgett's new book resonated with me immediately. It proclaims so clearly that tacit understanding in the indexing community about the accidental ways in which each of

us came to be here. After all, none of us spent our school days thinking that we wanted to be an indexer when we grew up. Her guide to the indexing profession is based on her own career of more than 20 years, and that of the 74 indexers who participated in *The accidental indexer* survey.

Indexing is described by Badgett as 'not being for the faint of